

Her dedication to education and commitment to her fellow citizens was commendable.

**SALUTE TO SERGEANT TOMMASO  
POPOLIZIO—FALLEN HERO**

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of a fallen Newark police officer whose tragic loss in the line of duty is mourned by his family, friends, fellow law enforcement officers, and our entire community. Sergeant Tommaso Popolizio died in the early morning hours of Saturday, March 3, 2007, at the age of 33, while working to keep our streets safe. He leaves behind his wife, four children, father and five siblings.

Sergeant Popolizio, born and raised in Newark, dedicated his life to the city where he and his family put down roots. His parents, Nicola and Sarah, immigrated to the United States in the late 1960s from Italy and settled in the North Ward of Newark, New Jersey, my home city. The youngest of seven children, Sergeant Popolizio attended my alma mater, Barringer High School and went on to study at Rutgers University, Newark. He joined the Newark police force in 1995, the first of three brothers to do so.

Sergeant Popolizio once said, "I try to do as much as I can every day that I go out there." Committed to bettering our city, Sergeant Popolizio, the consummate police officer, always rose to the occasion whether on or off duty. Noted for his bravery and dedication, Sergeant Popolizio protected our city streets and saved a number of lives. Upon first joining the police force, he was fired upon during a chase to apprehend dangerous suspects. In 1999, Sergeant Popolizio and another officer rushed into a burning building and rescued three children. Chalking up such instances of bravery to "all in a day's work," Popolizio never sought recognition, never shrank from duty, and always gave one-hundred percent to his job. It is therefore no surprise that someone with such heart and tenacity as Sergeant Popolizio was bestowed with honors and rose up the ranks of the Newark Police Department. As an East District supervisor, Sergeant Popolizio was known for his positive influence in leading by example.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring Sergeant Tommaso Popolizio, who died as he lived his life—selflessly and with integrity. I am honored to have had him represent my home city and I know my colleagues join me in extending our deepest sympathy to the family of one of Newark's fallen heroes.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE GREAT  
LAKES COLLABORATION IMPLE-  
MENTATION ACT**

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, the Great Lakes provide drinking water for 40 million

people, and 56 billion gallons of water per day are used for municipal, agricultural, and industrial use. The Great Lakes contain 5,500 cubic miles of freshwater—that's 6 quadrillion gallons of water, equal to 90 percent of U.S. supply and 20 percent of world supply. In fact, if you emptied the Great Lakes onto the continental U.S., everything would be under 9½ feet of water. The Great Lakes shoreline stretches for 10,210 miles. That's a lot of sand for summer Saturdays at the beach. The Great Lakes contain over 250 species of fish, and they sustain a \$4 billion sports fishery industry and millions more in commercial fishing.

Is it any wonder that we call them great? The lakes are the foundation of our region's quality of life, and they are a national treasure.

The Great Lakes are so vast, so majestic, and so plentiful that we might think they can withstand any contamination. We take them for granted. But the Great Lakes have suffered from years of industrial pollution, stormwater and agricultural runoff, the introduction of invasive species, and wetlands and coastal habitat loss. The size and shape of the Lakes only contribute to the problem. The retention rate for Lake Superior is 191 years. Lake Michigan is 99 years. It takes the Lakes that period of time to cycle through water and get rid of pollutants. The Lakes are nearing a tipping point of environmental pollution from which they might not be able to recover. Closed beaches, fish consumption restrictions, loss of wildlife habitat, and depleted fish stocks are harbingers of problems that will only worsen over time.

Thankfully, we largely know what needs to be done to clean up and protect the Lakes. In December 2005, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, initiated through an executive order by President Bush, produced a strategic action plan for protecting and restoring the Great Lakes. The Regional Collaboration—a partnership of Federal program managers, State governors, mayors, scientists, industry leaders, anglers, hunters, environmentalists, and other interested private stakeholders—focused their attention on addressing the most critical threats to the Lakes. The diverse group of 1,500 participants developed recommendations for addressing aquatic invasive species, habitat protection, coastal health, Areas of Concern and contaminated sediment, non-point source pollution, toxic pollutants, scientific research and monitoring, and sustainable development.

Today I am introducing comprehensive legislation to address these threats. As its name implies, my bill—the Great Lakes Collaboration Implementation Act—makes many of the necessary legislative changes to implement many of the policy recommendations contained in the Strategy. This bill prevents further biological contamination from aquatic invasive species introductions. It also helps clean up contaminated sediments in rivers and harbors and restores beneficial uses of those waters. Provisions in the legislation will restore wetlands and other fish and wildlife habitat, and help communities improve their wastewater infrastructure and prevent sewer overflows. Finally, the bill strengthens scientific research and monitoring activities in the Lakes, so that we can monitor our progress and make good decisions on what steps to take next in clean up and restoration efforts.

The solutions are practical and manageable. The sooner we pass this bill and provide the

necessary funding levels for these programs, the less costly the solutions will be in the long run. I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

**AN IMPORTANT HEALTH AND  
SAFETY ISSUE FOR BERGEN  
COUNTY WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to this body's attention a serious health issue affecting women and unborn children in Bergen County, New Jersey.

The Bergen Record reported last Wednesday, February 28 that the Metropolitan Medical Associates Clinic in Englewood, New Jersey had been closed down following a complaint filed by Newark Beth Israel Medical Center when it treated a woman for complications from an abortion performed at the Metropolitan Clinic. The Clinic, which performs more than 10,000 abortions a year, including about 1500 partial birth abortions, was closed for posing "immediate and serious risk of harm to patients." This very same clinic was barred from performing abortions in 1993 for its failure to protect the health and safety of its patients.

As the Record reported, "An order to halt medical services is extremely rare. This is only the second time in the last five years the [Department of Health and Senior Services] has closed one of the State's 619 ambulatory-care facilities for 'deficient care.'" Ironically, the Clinic is redirecting its patients to another local clinic owned by the same company that offers sub-par services at the Metropolitan Clinic.

Perhaps, more ironic, however, is that the State has stepped in to protect the women seeking abortions from the physical hazards posed by the Clinic's substandard care. It has not sought to address the emotional damage that these women may suffer from the trauma of an abortion. And, it certainly has not sought to address the fatal tragedy that befalls the more than 10,000 children whose mothers come to the Clinic each year.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. JEFFERSON. Madam Speaker, due to a prior commitment being held in my district on Thursday, March 1, 2007, I missed the H.R. 800 "Employee Free Choice Act" vote. If I had been here, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

**TRIBUTE TO KAREN FANT: CON-  
SERVATIONIST AND DEFENDER  
OF OUR WILD LANDS**

**HON. JAY INSLEE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 6, 2007*

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Karen Fant, who devoted